

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 OC-06  
CCO-00 A-01 DHA-02 AID-05 MCT-01 /070 W  
-----092253Z 015431 /62

O 091630Z APR 77  
FM AMCONSUL LAHORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1208  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL KARACHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAHORE 0336

E.O. 11652; GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS GREET OPENING OF PROVINCIAL  
ASSEMBLY IN LAHORE

REF: LAHORE 0335

1. SUMMARY: OPENING OF PUNLAB PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN  
LAHORE APRIL 9 WAS MARRED BY VIOLENT RIOTING BY PRO-  
OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN WHICH AT LEAST 12 PERSONS HAVE BEEN  
REPORTED KILLED BY POLICE FIRING. PROTESTS BEGAN AT 0800  
AND STILL CONTINUE AS OF 1800, WITH AN ESTIMATED 10,000  
DEMONSTRATORS ENGAGING POLICE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF DOWNTOWN  
LAHORE.

SOME VEHICLES AND PRIVATE PROPERTY HAVE BEEN BURNED AND ONE  
CINEMA HOUSE WAS FIRE BOMBED (UNSUCCESSFULLY). SECURITY  
FORCES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN DEMONSTRATIONS,  
WHICH DID NOT INTERFERE WITH ASSEMBLY SESSION. HOWEVER,  
RIOTING IS WORST LAHORE HAS SEEN SINCE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT  
BEGAN MARCH 14 AND VIOLENCE MAY SPREAD ELSEWHERE IN  
PROVINCE, WHERE SITUATION IS ALREADY DISTURBED. NAWABZADA  
NUSRULLAH KAHN, ACTING PRESIDENT OF OPPOSITION PAKISTAN  
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NATION ALLIANCE (PNA), IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED,  
MUSLIM LEAGUE (PML) LEADER PIR OF PAGARO ARE UNKNOWN.  
BHUTTO REMAINED DURING DAY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN LAHORE,  
WHERE HE HAD ARRIVED APRIL 8 FROM RAWALPINDI. END SUMMARY.

2. OPENING OF PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY APRIL 9 WAS OVERSHADOWED  
BY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN LAHORE IN WHICH AT LEAST 12

PERSONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED KILLED BY POLICE FIRING.  
(BBC HAS BROADCAST THIS FIGURE, WHICH LOCAL PRESS SOURCES  
HAVE CONFIRMED.) AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF OTHERS ARE

FEARED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED, INCLUDING SEVERAL WOMEN.  
PROTESTS MARCHES STARTED AT 0800, ONE HOUR BEFORE ASSEMBLY  
WAS DUE-TO OPEN, AND TOOK PLACE IN MAIN DOWNTOWN AREAS OF  
LAHORE AROUND HIGH COURT, ANARKALI BAZAAR, NISBET ROAD,  
MONTGOMERY ROAD AND QUEENS ROAD NEAR THE AMERICAN CENTER.  
PAO REPORTED POLICE LATHI CHARGES AND TEARGASSING IN VICINITY OF  
CENTER, BUT THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO USG PROPERTY. LAWYERS,  
WOMEN, ELEMA (RELIGIOUS SCHOLARS)  
AND VARIOUS PNA ELEMENTS TOOK PART. BIG CLASH REPORTEDLY  
OCCURRED IN FRONT OF HIGH COURT AROUND NOON WHEN LAWYERS  
TRIED TO TAKE OUT PROCESSION AND WERE BEATEN BACK BY  
TEARGASSING AND HEAVY POLICE LATHI CHARGE, INJURING A  
NUMBER OF THEM.  
EARLIER IN MORNING ANOTHER OPPOSITION PROCESSION CAME UP  
THE MALL AND POLICE HAD TO OPEN FIRE TO RESTORE ORDER,  
KILLING FIVE PERSONS. IN RETALIATION, DEMONSTRATORS TURNED  
ON LAHORE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MUNIR DAR, WHO WAS  
DIRECTING SECURITY FORCES, AND KILLED HIM ON THE SPOT.  
SIMILAR CLASHES CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND WERE STILL  
GOING ON AS OF 1800 .

3. IN ADDITION TO RUSHING THE POLICE LINES, DEMONSTRATORS  
BURNED THREE MUNICIPAL BUSES, A POLICE VAN, A WATER AND  
POWER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
VEHICLE AND THE PERSONAL CAR OF FORMER PUNJE EDUCATIONS  
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MINISTER MALIK GHULAM NABI (PPP) WHICH THEY SEIZED FROM  
HIS RESIDENCE ON TEMPLY ROAD. ONE WINE SHOP ON THE MALL WAS  
SACKED AND A FIRE BOMB WAS TOSSED AT REGAL CINEMA. LATTER,  
HOWEVER, DID NOT CATCH FIRE.

4. POLICE, FEDERAL RESERVE POLICE (JANBAZ) AND FSF BORE  
MAIN SECURITY BURDEN. ARMY WAS ENCAMPED IN PARTS OF  
THE CITY AS THEY HAD BEEN DURING PREVIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS,  
BUT IT PLAYED NO DIRECT ROLE IN CONTROLLING SITUATION.  
CROWD CHEERED ARMY JEEPS WHEN THEY APPEARED ON THE STREETS  
FROM TIME TO TIME. DEMONSTRATORS ON QUEENS ROAD AND THE MALL  
GOT WITHIN 400 YARDS OF ASSEMBLY BUILDING AROUND MID-MORNING,  
BUT NENVER SERIOUSLY THREATENED THE PROCEEDINGS.

5. RIOTING IS WORST LAHORE (AND PUNJAB) HAS SEEN SINCE  
OPPOSITION MOVEMENT GOT UNDERWAY MARCH 14. POLICE HAD NOT  
OPENED FIRE IN LAHORE BEFORE, NOR HAVE FIRINGS ELSEWHERE  
RESULTED IN SO MANY DEATHS. INFORMED OBSERVERS EXPECT  
VIOLENCE TO SPREAD AS A RESULT, FURTHER THREATENING LAHORE

AS WELL AS OTHER TOWNS AND CITIES THROUGHOUT PROVINCE. SECURITY SITUATION IN OUTLYING DISTRICTS IS ALREADY FRAGILE. OPPOSITION DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN AT LEAST A DOZEN CITIES APRIL 8, SOME OF WHICH HAD TO BE BROKEN UP BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS AND LATHI CHARGES. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, A BOMB WAS THROWN AT HOUSE OF (PPP) MNA-ELECT ISMAIL ZIA IN GUJRANAWALA. ZIA LUCKILY ESCAPED UNHURT, BUT SPORADIC TERRORIST ATTACKS SUCH AS THIS, REPORTEDLY OPPOSITION INSPIRED, OCCUR ALMOST DAILY.

6. NAWABZADA NUSRULLAH KAHN, ACTING PRESIDENT OF PNA, IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. PML LEADER PIR PAGARO IS ALSO UNACCOUNTED FOR. BOTH WERE TO HAVE LED OPPOSITION PROTEST MARCHES IN LAHORE TODAY. EXPECTATION IS THAT BHUTTO WILL CRACK DOWN FURTHER AND JAIL FEEL OPPOSITION LEADERS STILL AT LIBERTY. PM, WHO APPEARED TO BE IN PEEVISH MOOD UPON ARRIVAL IN LAHORE  
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APRIL 8, DECLARED "CATEGORICALLY AND EMPHATICALLY" TO NEWSMEN WHO MET HIM AT AIRPORT THAT ELECTIONS HAD NOT BEEN RIGGED. HE REITERATED OFFER FOR A DIALOGUE. WITHOUT WHICH HE SAID THERE COULD BE NO "POLITICS." QUESTIONED FURTHER ABOUT POSSIBLE ELECTION MALPRACTICES, PM ASSERTED THAT HIS CONCERN ABOUT HIS PLACE IN HISTORY IS GREATER THAN RETAINING OFFICE THROUGH RIGGING. DESPITE BHUTTO'S REPEATED OFFER TO TALK, OUTLOOK FOLLOWING SERIOUS CLASHES IN LAHORE APPEARS TO BE CONTINUED VIOLENCE AND CONFRONTATION.  
GAMON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, PK  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009